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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A method comprising:

generating a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes generating a hash of the cached policy.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes encoding a bit vector identifying selected assertions from the cached policy.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit value to the assertion, and writing the bit value to a bit vector.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein generating the policy digest includes generating a hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the client in response to using the cached policy; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising logging a diagnostic event when a fault is received at the client to identify a system problem.

Claim 9 (Original): A method comprising:

extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy, the policy digest included in a request to access a resource; and

denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising issuing a fault for the client if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

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| 1 | Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising |
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| 2 | decoding the policy digest. |
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| 4 | Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising |
| 5 | decoding a bit vector of the cached policy. |
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| 7 | Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising |
| 8 | reading an assertion from the policy digest. |
| 9 | |
| 10 | Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising |
| 11 | reading a row hash of the cached policy. |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Claim 15 (Original): A system comprising: |
| 14 | a policy digest identifying at least one cached policy; and |
| 15 | a messaging module denying access to a resource if the policy digest |
| 16 | identifies an invalid policy for the resource. |
| 17 | |
| 18 | Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging |
| 19 | module extracts the policy digest from a message requesting access to the resource. |
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| 21 | Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the messaging |
| 22 | module decodes the policy digest. |
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| 24 | Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy |
| 25 | digest is a bit vector of a cached policy. |

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| 2 | Claim 19 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy |
| 3 | digest is a row hash of a normalized policy. |
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| 5 | Claim 20 (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the policy |
| 6 | digest identifies at least one selected assertion. |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Claim 21 (Original): A system comprising: |
| 9 | a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest identifying at |
| 10 | least one assertion the client is complying with; and |
| 11 | a messaging module including the policy digest in a request by the client to |
| 12 | access a resource. |
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| 14 | Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the messaging |
| 15 | module encodes the policy digest. |
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| 17 | Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy |
| 18 | digest is a bit vector of a cached policy. |
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| 20 | Claim 24 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy |
| 21 | digest is a row hash of a normalized policy. |
| 22 | |
| 23 | Claim 25 (Original): The system of claim 21, wherein the policy |
| 24 | digest identifies at least one assertion selected by the client. |

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Claim 26 (Original): A computer program product encoding a computer program for executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process comprising:

generating a policy digest for a cached policy at a client, the policy digest identifying at least one assertion the client is complying with; and

including the policy digest in a request by the client to access a resource.

Claim 27 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises generating a hash of the cached policy.

Claim 28 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises encoding a bit vector of the cached policy.

Claim 29 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises reading an assertion from the policy, assigning a bit value to the assertion, and writing the bit value to a bit vector.

Claim 30 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises generating a row hash of the cached policy if the cached policy is normalized.

Claim 31 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer process further comprises:

incrementing a counter each time the cached policy is used; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 32 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises:

incrementing a counter for the cached policy when a fault is received at the client in response to using the cached policy; and

removing the cached policy from a cache at the client when the counter exceeds a limit value.

Claim 33 (Original): The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the computer process further comprises triggering a diagnostic event when a fault is received at the client.

Claim 34 (Original): A computer program product encoding a computer program for executing on a computer system a computer process, the computer process comprising:

extracting at a host a policy digest identifying a cached policy, the policy digest included in a request to access a resource; and

denying access to the resource if the policy digest identifies an invalid policy.

| 1 | Claim 35 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 |
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| 2 | wherein the computer process further comprises decoding the policy digest. |
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| 4 | Claim 36 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 |
| 5 | wherein the computer process further comprises decoding a bit vector of the |
| 6 | cached policy. |
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| 8 | Claim 37 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 |
| 9 | wherein the computer process further comprises reading an assertion from the |
| 10 | policy digest. |
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| 12 | Claim 38 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34 |
| 13 | wherein the computer process further comprises reading a row hash of the cached |
| 14 | policy if the cached policy is normalized. |
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